

**2002/03 – 2007/08 Regional Transportation Improvement Program
(2002 RTIP)**

Responses to Comments

No.	Comment Date	Date Received	Via	Organization	Contact Person	Highlights/Summary Comments	Highlights/Summary Responses to Comments
1	6/19/02	6/19/02	Email	Environmental Defense	Tracy Freuder	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request of location on SCAG website of conformity determination information for the 2001 RTP and 2001 RTIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on SCAG's Website provided to the commentor directly.
2	7/9/02	7/11/02	Mail	Port of Long Beach	Robert Kanter, Ph.D., Director of Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical clarifications/changes to project listing – various projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes requested, with the exception of projects LA57000 and LA996369, require that the projects go through the public review process. The request will be transmitted to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for consideration of incorporation into Amendment #01 to the 2002 RTIP. Request to change lead agency name for some of the projects requires coordination with Caltrans headquarters staff. If agreed upon, these changes will be reflected in Amendment #01 to the 2002 RTIP. SCAG has made the requested changes to Projects LA57000 and LA996369 per comments, since the requested changes were within 20 percent of the total project costs. These changes are reflected in the Final 2002 RTIP.
3	7/12/02	7/12/02	Public Hearing	Resident – City of Ojai	Tim Shates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protesting inclusion of project VEN990350 in the RTIP. This is described as a gap closure to extend Willow Street to connect to Montgomery Street. Concern about project hearing process when project was originally approved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As required by federal regulations, the 2002 RTIP is consistent with the 2001 RTP. To delete specific projects, there is a process that needs to be followed during the development of the RTP. The RTP is updated every three years. Prior to submittal to SCAG, each of the county transportation commissions conducts its own public participation process. Comments will be forwarded to the VCTC for their consideration.

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4	7/15/02	7/15/02	Fax, Mail and Public Hearing	On behalf of Inglewood Unified School District	Dr. Joel Kirschenstein	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern with Arbor Vitae interchange project and its impact on Inglewood Unified School District in general and Oak Street School and Payne Elementary School in particular and request for special hearings. Concern with impact on mostly minority population within the District. Request for inclusion of comment in the 2002 RTIP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project to construct south half of Arbor Vitae/I-405 I/C was included in the 2001 RTP through an amendment, following appropriate planning procedures. As required by the state and federal planning regulations, adequate public notice was provided and a public hearing was conducted, in addition to implementing the AB 1246 consultation process prior to formal adoption of the amendment that included this project by SCAG's Regional Council. Therefore, subsequent implementation of this project must be viewed as being consistent with the amended 2001 RTP, as required by federal regulations. SCAG is committed to environmental justice through the regional transportation planning process. The environmental justice analysis of the 2001 RTP took into account all future truck and vehicle traffic in the region. The analysis did not show a disproportionate impact from traffic in minority and low-income areas. As required by federal regulations, the 2002 RTIP is consistent with the 2001 RTP. SCAG engaged in an extensive public participation process for the Draft 2002 RTIP, which included a public hearing in each county and a final, regional public hearing at SCAG offices. The Final 2002 RTIP includes a log which summarizes the comments received during the Draft 2002 RTIP public review period and the responses provided by SCAG.
5	7/16/02	7/16/02	Public Hearing		Wayne Smith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment on region's investment in telecommunications in traffic congestion mitigation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment noted.
6	7/16/02	7/16/02	Fax	Ventura County Air Pollution Control District	Ben Cacatian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment in support of 2002 RTIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comment noted.

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7	7/17/02	7/17/02	Delivery	Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles	D. Malcolm Carson, Attorney-at-Law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Needs of low-income people should have priority in transportation funding programs Transit investments versus highway investments Public participation process needs to be more proactive and extensive and provide opportunities for involvement by minority and low-income populations Concerns regarding inclusion of Arbor Vitae interchange in the 2002 RTIP Identification of certain projects as TCMs RTIP/RTP consistency and environmental justice concern 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 35 % of the total funds are for transit improvements, whereas approximately 15.5% of the federal gasoline tax is allocated to transit improvements. The federal gasoline tax per gallon is 18.4 cents, of which 2.86 cents is for transit. There are indirect investments for transit in the roadway systems, including some HOV lanes, which are used by the transit system. Therefore, a portion of the investments in highways is also for transit. SCAG is monitoring the programming of transit and highway projects and expenditures in the RTIP to ensure that the goals of the RTP are met. SCAG engaged in an extensive public participation process for the Draft 2002 RTIP, which included a public hearing in each county and a final, regional public hearing at SCAG offices. Notices of these hearings were placed in local newspapers throughout the region. In addition, each of the six counties in the SCAG region engages in its own public participation process, prior to submitting their projects to SCAG for inclusion in the RTIP. Public participation does take place in the early stages of the planning processes at the city and county levels. SCAG is currently assessing its public outreach efforts in order to increase public participation for both the RTP and RTIP. The suggestions for evening public hearings are appreciated and will be taken into consideration. The project to construct south half of Arbor Vitae/I-405 I/C was included in the 2001 RTP through an amendment, following appropriate planning procedures. As required by the state and federal planning regulations, adequate public notice was provided and a public hearing was conducted, in addition to implementing the AB 1246 consultation process prior to formal adoption of the amendment that included this project by SCAG's Regional Council. Therefore, subsequent implementation of this project must be viewed as being consistent with the amended 2001 RTP, as required by federal regulations. During the review period of the Draft 2002 RTIP a number of technical corrections were made to ensure that TCM projects were identified correctly. The Final 2002 RTIP reflects the corrections that were made. As part of the conformity analysis, SCAG ensures the timely implementation of TCMs. HOV projects are defined as TCMs, per the Clean Air Act, Section 108 (f)(1)(A). As required by federal regulations, the 2002 RTIP is consistent with the 2001 RTP.

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7 <i>Con't</i>							<p align="center"><i>CONTINUED</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SCAG staff and leadership have worked to implement environmental justice principles in transportation planning for the past several years, including the adoption of a formal environmental justice policy, "Compliance Procedure for Environmental Justice in the Planning Process," in 2000. • SCAG is committed to environmental justice through the regional transportation planning process. The environmental justice analysis of the 2001 RTP took into account all future truck and vehicle traffic in the region. The analysis did not show a disproportionate impact from traffic in minority and low-income areas. • SCAG is proposing to partner with Environmental Defense and Legal Aid Foundation of LA for Caltrans' program "Environmental Justice: Context Sensitive Planning for Communities," to encourage participation of transit-dependent, low-income, and minority communities in the transportation planning process. • SCAG is committed to conforming to federal environmental justice principles, policies, and regulations.
8	7/17/02	7/17/02	Fax	Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority	Pete Mandia, Director of Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical clarifications/changes to project listing – include all phases of the Commodore Schuyler Heim Bridge Seismic Replacement / Alameda Corridor (State Route 47) Truck Expressway Project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changes requested require that the projects go through the public review process because there is a significant increase in the programming total. • The request will be transmitted to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for consideration of incorporation into Amendment #01 to the 2002 RTIP.
9	7/17/02	7/17/02	Fax	Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (c/o DMJM Harris – Alameda Corridor Eng. Team)	W. Dean Martin, Chief Financial Officer (faxed by April See at DMJM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical clarifications/changes to project listing – modify responsibilities and associated funding of Pacific Coast Highway Grade Separation project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The requested modifications to Project LA000353 in the 2002 RTIP have been made and are reflected in the 2002 RTIP.

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10	7/17/02	7/17/02	Fax	On behalf of Inglewood Unified School District	David M. Orbach, Orbach & Huff LLP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition to Arbor Vitae interchange project and its disproportionate impact on minority communities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of the project to construct the south half of the Arbor Vitae/I-405 I/C in the 2002 RTIP is consistent with the amended 2001 RTP, as required by federal regulations. • SCAG is committed to environmental justice through the regional transportation planning process. The environmental justice analysis of the 2001 RTP took into account all the future truck and vehicle traffic in the region. The analysis did not show a disproportionate impact from traffic in minority and low-income areas. • The 2002 RTIP is consistent with the 2001 RTP, as required by federal regulations.
11	7/17/02	7/17/02	Email/Fax	Port of Los Angeles	Sue Lai	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical clarifications/changes to project listing – various projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The request will be transmitted to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for consideration for incorporation into Amendment #01 to the 2002 RTIP.
12	7/17/02	7/17/02	Fax	Resident – Inglewood	Diane Sambrano	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition to Arbor Vitae interchange project • Environmental justice concerns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the 2002 RTIP is to implement the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and to ensure consistency between the RTP and the RTIP. As required by federal regulations, the 2002 RTIP is consistent with the 2001 RTP and the 2001 RTP does not support expansion of the Los Angeles International Airport beyond 78 million annual passengers. • The project to construct the south half of the Arbor Vitae/I-405 I/C was included in the 2001 RTP through an amendment, following appropriate planning procedures. As required by the state and federal planning regulations, adequate public notice was provided and a public hearing was conducted, in addition to implementing the AB 1246 consultation process prior to formal adoption of the amendment that included this project by SCAG's Regional Council. Therefore, subsequent implementation of this project must be viewed as being consistent with the amended 2001 RTP, as required by federal regulations. • Inclusion of the project to construct the south half of the Arbor Vitae/I-405 I/C in the 2002 RTIP is consistent with the amended 2001 RTP, as required by federal regulations. • SCAG is committed to environmental justice through the regional transportation planning process. The environmental justice analysis of the 2001 RTP took into account all future truck and vehicle traffic in the region. The analysis did not show a disproportionate impact from traffic in minority and low-income areas.

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13	7/17/02	7/17/02	Email	California Department of Transportation	Jay Shah, Project Manager/ Contract Manager	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include all STIP/SHOPP changes, additions, deletions into RTIP • Include all federally approved amendments in RTIP - identified specific projects • Include Arbor Vitae project in RTIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments submitted regarding the STIP and SHOPP will be transmitted to the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for consideration for incorporation into Amendment #01 to the 2002 RTIP. • Requested change to Project LA 000353 has been made and is reflected in the 2002 RTIP. • The south half of the Arbor Vitae/I-405 I/C is included in the 2002 RTIP.
14	7/17/02	7/17/02	Email	Resident	Cecil Carpio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition to Arbor Vitae interchange project and other projects in LAX area that support expansion of LAX 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the 2002 RTIP is to implement the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and to ensure consistency between the RTP and the RTIP. As required by federal regulations, the 2002 RTIP is consistent with the 2001 RTP and the 2001 RTP does not support expansion of the Los Angeles International Airport beyond 78 million annual passengers.
15	7/14/02	Received After Public Comment Period 7/17/02 AFTER 5PM	Email (with attached letter dated July 14 th)	L.A.X.E.N.! LAX Expansion No!	Mike Stevens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition to various projects in the LAX area that support expansion of LAX • Environmental justice concerns • Inadequate description of some projects in the 2002 Draft RTIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the 2002 RTIP is to implement the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and to ensure consistency between the RTP and the RTIP. As required by federal regulations, the 2002 RTIP is consistent with the 2001 RTP and the 2001 RTP does not support expansion of the Los Angeles International Airport beyond 78 million annual passengers. • SCAG is committed to environmental justice through the regional transportation planning process. The environmental justice analysis of the 2001 RTP took into account all future truck and vehicle traffic in the region. The analysis did not show a disproportionate impact from traffic in minority and low-income areas. • Project descriptions for the thousands of projects in the 2002 RTIP Project Listing are provided to SCAG by outside agencies, and SCAG makes every attempt to verify these project descriptions and clarify as needed.
16	7/17/02	Received After Public Comment Period 7/17/02 AFTER 5PM	Email	Resident – LA, 90045	Carole Hossan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opposition to Arbor Vitae interchange project and other projects in LAX area that support expansion of LAX 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The purpose of the 2002 RTIP is to implement the 2001 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and to ensure consistency between the RTP and the RTIP. As required by federal regulations, the 2002 RTIP is consistent with the 2001 RTP and the 2001 RTP does not support expansion of the Los Angeles International Airport beyond 78 million annual passengers. • Response to the February 23, 2002 letter was provided in the 2001 RTP/RTIP Amendment response to comments and can be found on SCAG's web page or by contacting SCAG directly. • In response to opposition of specific projects, as identified in letter, the 2002 RTIP is consistent with the 2001 RTP as required by federal regulations.

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17	7/17/02	After Public Comment Period 7/19/02	Mail	LACMTA	James L. de la Loza, Executive Officer, Countywide Planning and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment in support of 2002 RTIP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comment noted.

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